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LIFE IN CANADA.

ON Thursday evening, February 8th, 1887, a very interesting lecture, on "Life in Canada," was delivered in the large Assembly Rooms, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, by Mr. A. J. McMillan, of Brandon, Manitoba. Lord Leigh, Lord-Lieutenant of the County, presided; and there was a crowded audience.

The Noble CHAIRMAN, who was received with loud and prolonged applause, said: "I can assure you it gives me very great pleasure indeed to be permitted to have the honour this evening of occupying the chair. The function of a chairman of a lecture such as this is a very simple and easy one, and the less he says the better, as the audience is anxiously expecting to hear what may fall from the lips of the lecturer. But it gives me special pleasure this evening to attend this lecture, inasmuch as I am about to perform the pleasing duty of asking the son of a very respected and old friend and tenant to give a lecture, which I am sure you will listen to with great pleasure. As regards the lecturer's father, it gives me, as I am sure it gives all his friends—and he has many—much pleasure to hear that gentleman is recovering from a severe illness. I only hope and trust his valuable life may be spared to his family and friends for many years to come. The lecture you are going to listen to this evening is one upon a very interesting subject, no less than that of a lecture upon one of our largest colonies, that of Canada; and when I hear of men, and women too, out of employ, and when we hear, as we shall hear from the lecturer, of the large and enormous tracts of land that are uncultivated, and which requires labour upon it in a colony which is really no less than our own colony, and an English speaking colony under an English Government, and when we know that there are hundreds looking about and anxiously looking out for work, who can in a very short time—a few weeks—go where they may get plenty of employment—I say it behoves those who are unable to obtain work in this country to go where they can get work. I will not detain you with any more observations as I am as anxious as you are to hear what the lecturer has to say. I have much pleasure in introducing the lecturer to you.

The LECTURER, who was enthusiastically received, thanked Lord Leigh for the kind words he had spoken respecting his father and himself, and then proceeded with the subject of his lecture. He said: "The Dominion of Canada is the largest of our colonial possessions, and covers an area of something like 3,600,000 square miles. It extends in one unbroken stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, a distance of 8,000 miles. Its southern boundary extends to the forty-second degree of latitude. It is larger than the United States, and within

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its boundaries 28 kingdoms as large as Great Britain and Ireland might be established. Earl Dufferin, at one time Governor-General of Canada, says truly, 'Figures such as these alike confound the arithmetic of the surveyor and the verification of the explorer.'

"The population of Canada is estimated to be nearly 5,000,000, or about three to every two square miles. Canada is divided into seven provinces, whilst in the great North-West there is a vast amount of territory awaiting development into new provinces. The names of the seven provinces are—Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, and British Columbia. The four territories recently carved out of the North-West are Assiniboia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Athabasca.

"The Government of Canada is Federal, i.e., there is a Central Government having jurisdiction over the whole of the Dominion. The seat of this Government is at Ottawa. Its head is a Governor-General, appointed by the Queen, and who holds office for five years; a Senate, consisting of members appointed for life by the Crown upon the nomination of the Ministry; and a House of Commons elected by the people. From the Senate and the House of Commons is chosen a Ministry, who carry on the business of the country much as it might be carried on in England. Each of the provinces of the Dominion has a Lieutenant-Governor appointed by the Governor-General, and a Local Legislature chosen by the people, with a responsible Ministry. It is the business of these Local Legislatures to carry on the purely local business of their respective provinces. Throughout the Dominion there is a very perfect system of municipal government carried on by means of county councils elected by the ratepayers, and whose business it is to regulate local taxation for roads, schools, &c.

"I propose, to-night, saying a little about each of the provinces of the Dominion, though I shall deal principally with Manitoba and the North-West, with regard to which I can speak with more authority and from a more intimate knowledge of my subject than I can of the other parts of the Dominion.

"Ontario is the wealthiest and most populous of these provinces, and has a population of about ten to the square mile. To a considerable extent it is bounded by the great lakes, viz., Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario. Its southern boundary is almost on the same latitude as Rome, whilst it extends northwards to James' Bay. Its resources are chiefly timber and agriculture, but there is also considerable mineral wealth, consisting of iron, copper, lead, silver, petroleum, salt, &c. Quite recently a copper mine of immense wealth has been discovered north of Lake Superior. The quality is said to be so rich and the yield so great, that it is likely to revolutionise the price of copper the world over. I have seen samples of the copper, and met with men living in the neighbourhood of the mines, and have every reason to believe the reports are substantially true.

"Fruit is very extensively grown in Ontario, many parts of which may be described as a fruit garden. Professor Sheldon, of the West of England Agricultural College, writing of the south-west part of Ontario, says:—'This portion of Ontario may be regarded as the garden of the Dominion—literally as well as figuratively the garden—for it is there that apples, pears, grapes, peaches, melons,

and the like grow in the greatest profusion, and with the least trouble on the part of the farmer. Every farm has an orchard, and it is purely the farmer's fault if the orchard is not an excellent one, for the climate and the soil are clearly all that can be desired, and the trees will do their share of the work provided the right sorts are planted.' And M. Girardot, a gentleman connected with one of the best wine districts of Eastern France, in contrasting it with his own country, remarks:—'The yield here is at least four or five tons to the acre; there, not more than two. The wines made here are equal to any in Eastern France. From 20 acres of grapes the yield of wine has averaged about 6,000 gallons, and is very remunerative, a profit of \$800 (£160) per acre being frequently obtained.' In the district of country here referred to several semi-tropical fruits are brought to perfection. The apricot, nectarine, and quince are easily cultivated over an area of several thousand square miles. At Niagara, the almond grows out of doors, and the fig is successfully cultivated with scarcely any protection in winter, and ripens two crops in the year.

Speaking of the cultivation of fruit generally, Canada takes a leading place or the high quality of her produce, and in 1882 exported no less than £90,000. The butter and cheese industry has attained large dimensions. The Government returns show that in 1885 over 79,000,000 lbs. of cheese, valued at about £1,650,000, was exported; and in the same year 7,380,000 lbs. of butter, valued at about £280,000. The number of cattle in the province is estimated at nearly 2,000,000, and the number of horses at about the same. From these figures it will be seen that farming is engaged in very extensively in Ontario, and that life out there is not by any means the isolated and desolate kind of existence imagined by many. If any of you were to visit the towns and cities of Ontario you would be surprised to find how rapid is their advancement in all that tends to the enlightenment and civilisation of the inhabitants. I have not time to say much in detail regarding Ontario cities. Toronto, the capital of the province and the seat of the Local Government, is a city of 120,000 inhabitants, beautifully situated on the shores of Lake Ontario. It has many miles of well-laid-out streets, a tramway and a telephone system, gas and the electric light. It has a great many churches and magnificent public buildings. A large number of Old Country people live in Toronto, and any one walking along its streets might imagine himself to be in Manchester or Birmingham. Then there is Ottawa, the capital of the Dominion, with a population of 28,000, and containing the Dominion Houses of Parliament and Offices, the finest public buildings on the North American continent. There is Hamilton, a manufacturing centre, with a population of 36,000; London, on the Thames, in Middlesex (you may imagine yourself in England), with nearly 20,000 inhabitants; Kingston, with 15,000; Brantford, with 12,000; Guelph, with 11,000; St. Catherine, with over 10,000; and numerous other cities and towns. Everywhere one meets with evidences of enterprise and energy on the part of the inhabitants, and notices an evident intention to keep abreast of the times in all that relates to their comfort and is calculated to advance their well-being.

"Notwithstanding the large amount of settlement in Ontario, there are yet between six and seven million acres of surveyed land open for location as free-grant

lands, besides a vast amount of land yet unsurveyed, covered with valuable timber, and awaiting only the hand of man to clear, when there will be presented to the agriculturist some of the richest and best of soil.

"I would not, however, recommend British emigrants, as a rule, to take up free grants of land in Ontario, and that for several reasons. In the first place the land has almost invariably to be cleared of heavy timber, and is remote from settlement. The ordinary Canadian, having been brought up to handle an axe from his boyhood, is much better adapted to this kind of work than the Old Country settler.

"If you do not wish to go out to the West, where you can get land free from the Government all ready for the plough, you can usually buy improved farms at a moderate price, and upon easy terms of payment. Perhaps you may think, if that is the case, farming cannot be a success, or the original owners would not leave. The fact of their leaving is to be accounted for by the fact that the pioneering instinct is strong in the average Canadian, and he is ever anxious to move on to new and unexplored lands.

"The province of Quebec is the oldest and the largest of the provinces of the Dominion. It covers an area of something like 210,000 square miles, or, in other words, is nearly twice the size of Great Britain and Ireland.

"It has a population of about 1,360,000, of whom over 1,000,000 are of French origin. Agriculture is, of course, the principal industry, but the fisheries and timber are a source of immense wealth, and give employment to large numbers of men. Quebec is also very rich in minerals, but, like Ontario, it has not any coal. There is still a large amount of free-grant land to be taken up in the province of Quebec; but to the English emigrant I would say of this, as of the free-grant land of Ontario, leave it to the Canadian pioneer, and yourself either purchase improved farms or push on to the West and take possession of the land already cleared by nature, and ready for your use. The province is well watered, and large numbers of cattle are raised. Fruits grow in great profusion, and in some parts of Quebec, as in Ontario, grapes ripen in the open air.

"The two principal cities are Quebec, the capital, with a population of 63,000, and Montreal, with a population of 150,000. The latter is very advantageously situated on the river St. Lawrence, and is the commercial capital of the Dominion. Crowds of shipping lie along the heavily-built stone wharves, and vessels of 6,000 tons burden can come up to the city. A vast amount of capital is centred in Montreal. There are very large manufactories, and many wholesale warehouses quite as imposing in appearance as those of Manchester and London. The scenery round Montreal is very beautiful.

"We next come to the Maritime provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. New Brunswick lies to the east of Quebec, and is 210 miles in length by 180 in breadth, having a coast line of about 500 miles. It is essentially a farming, timber, and fishing country. Shipbuilding is an important industry. Many valuable minerals are found in considerable quantities, and coal is very abundant.

"The province of Nova Scotia is a peninsula, lying between 43° and 46° lat.

and 61° and 67° long. It is connected with New Brunswick by a narrow isthmus, and is about 300 miles long by 80 to 100 wide. A large amount of farming is carried on, but the timber and fishing industries are by far the most important in the province. Oak, elm, maple, beech, poplar, spruce, and other varieties grow to a large size; and millions of feet are annually used for shipbuilding, or shipped to foreign markets. The fisheries of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are very rich, and have been and are to-day the cause of much dispute between Great Britain and the United States.

"Owing to the great quantity of wild animals, Nova Scotia has been termed the sportsman's paradise. There are bears, foxes, wolves, moose, otter, mink, sable, hares, squirrels, woodcock, plover, geese, and duck, all of which are abundant, and may be shot by any one, except in the close season. Halifax is the capital of the province, and has one of the best harbours in the world. It is six miles long, by, on an average, one mile wide, and, it is said, could accommodate all the navies of the world. It is the principal Canadian winter seaport on the Atlantic Ocean. It has a population of about 30,000, is an Imperial military station, and a point of considerable commercial importance.

"Prince Edward Island, the last of the eastern provinces we have to consider, is also the smallest. It is an island, and is situated in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It is 130 miles long, and about 34 wide. Its chief features are agriculture, fishing, and ship-building. It is particularly famed for its oysters, some of the finest varieties in the world being dredged in its waters. There is one railway on the island nearly 200 miles in length. Steamers ply between the island and the mainland, but the navigation is closed during part of the winter, on account of ice in the straits. In order to put an end to this kind of thing it is now seriously proposed to construct a submarine tunnel. Charlottetown is the chief city, and has a population of 11,500. The province itself has a population of nearly 110,000.

"Thus far, my lord, we have been going along in a quiet plodding sort of way in these eastern provinces, much as people live there, when compared with the bustle, and activity, and enterprise of newer lands.

"Now, I am going to ask you to act upon the advice of Horace Greeley, who said, 'Go West, young man, and grow up with the country.'

"I must ask you to come with me to the beautiful old city of Quebec, and 'get all aboard the cars for the West.' And now we are on the train, as jolly a party as you can well imagine. You must understand, the trains in Canada are constructed very differently from English ones. There are, perhaps, four or five passenger coaches on the train. Instead of getting into these trains from the side, as in England, we mount a platform at the end of the carriage, and enter from the end. There is a small passage, or aisle, right down the middle, and seats are arranged on either side. The seats are usually upholstered, and, having a swing back, are reversible. You can walk from one carriage to another from end to end of the train. The carriages are well heated, and are supplied with water for drinking purposes, a lavatory, &c. Meals can be obtained on board, in fact a train is like a moving hotel. On the train to the West you will find all sorts and conditions of men. There are young men from some of the best families in

England, there are the sons of army and navy officers, and of clergymen, there are professional men, tradesmen, farmers, mechanics, and labourers. All from the dear old land, each intent upon bettering his circumstances in the great new land to which he has turned his footsteps, pressing on with high endeavour, hoping success may attend his efforts. Of course, amongst this gathering there are some black sheep, some whose innate inclination to evil precludes the probability of prosperity.

"The train we are on is bound to Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba, and thence to Vancouver, the Pacific terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Some of our passengers alight at stations *en route*, to join friends who have preceded them it may be, or to try their luck in the older provinces, &c.; but the majority, and I think wisely, go right through to Winnipeg.

"About three or four days after leaving Quebec, and after travelling many hundreds of miles through dense forests to the north of Lake Superior, we enter upon the plains or prairies, and at the very entrance reach Winnipeg, one of the most wonderful cities of modern times. In brief and general terms I will speak about it to you, and I hope the description will dispel any illusions you may entertain regarding the wildness and seclusion of the place. I know many in England imagine life in Canada, especially in the West, is life spent in the back-woods, and amongst barbarians. The idea is an altogether mistaken one."

WINNIPEG.

"About twelve years since Winnipeg was a small trading post of the Hudson Bay Company, containing a population of about 300, including Indians; a village without railway communication with the outer world. To-day it is a city of 25,000 inhabitants, with six lines of railway running into it, and having direct daily communication with all parts of the civilised world.

"There are tram-cars running along its principal streets; and these streets are lit in some parts by the electric light, and in others by gas. Even in '82, when I first reached Winnipeg, one enterprising firm of drapers had their premises illuminated by the electric light.

"The thoroughfares are well laid out, and, in fact, Main Street, Winnipeg, is said to be the finest in the Dominion of Canada. It is lined for two miles or more with stores, many of them of immense size, and displaying a variety and quality of goods creditable to Oxford or Regent Streets, London.

"There are churches of all denominations. It is the seat of a Church of England bishopric—that of Rupert's Land. The Presbyterians have several very successful churches, and also a college for training young men for the ministry. The Wesleyans are very strong in Winnipeg, and have several beautiful churches. Baptists, Congregationalists, Roman Catholics, Jews, &c., all have regular places of meeting. There is a very flourishing branch of the Young Men's Christian Association.

"There are a number of well-appointed and administered schools, where the young of all classes are taught free, and also some high-class schools. There is an Historical and Scientific Society. The University of Manitoba is also in Winnipeg.

There are various clubs, where the bachelorhood and fashion of the city congregate—clubs with appointments not inferior to many of those in London. There is a boating club, football and cricket clubs, and a snow-shoe club, the members of the last meeting on bright, frosty evenings for a run on snowshoes into the country.

“The Local Legislature—that is, the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba—meets in a magnificent building in the west-end of the city, where also are situated the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor and most of the Government buildings.

“In this same vicinity are also a number of beautiful villa residences, mostly of brick or stone—houses quite able to rank in appearance with most of your houses of a similar order at home. There is a very handsome building recently erected for the city council as a town hall, &c., at a cost of about £20,000.

“A new post-office is in course of erection, which will, when finished, be far superior to any I have seen in most of our English provincial towns.

“There is a theatre; and there are constantly lectures, concerts, and public entertainments for the edification and amusement of the people.

“There are three very large flour mills, and some smaller ones; there are foundries, paper factories, biscuit factories, saw mills, breweries, furniture factories, paper mills, and other concerns, giving employment to large numbers of people. There are immense elevators, for storing the wheat of the boundless grain country to the west, and large stock-yards for the accommodation of the ever-increasing herds of cattle passing through the city to the eastern markets. The workshops of the Canadian Pacific Railway for the western division of the line are situated in Winnipeg, and give employment to several thousands of people.

“With all these addenda to civilisation, it cannot well be said that Winnipeg is a wilderness; as an old lady innocently remarked to me, in Southampton the other day, she believed it to be. On the contrary, there is great business activity, and if you were to go down Main Street any fine afternoon you might imagine yourself in one of the principal promenades of Leamington or Birmingham. Such, then, sketched briefly, is the capital of the new country to which we have come. What shall we do now we are here? Nine out of ten who come to the country engage in agriculture. My advice to those who reach Manitoba intending to embark in farming—whether they have money or not—would be, work for someone else for six or twelve months, and gain experience before venturing on your own account. Do this, and, depend upon it, it will be worth hundreds of dollars to you. It may be that in the Old Country you have not been accustomed to farm work, of course that will be some little disadvantage to you, but not by any means an insurmountable one. If you have sound English common sense, and ambition to make yourself useful, you will be able to obtain work on a farm, and no doubt give satisfaction. In this way you will be enabled to learn the details of farming for yourself, and gain such an insight into the modes of life obtaining throughout the country, and get such practical information of a general character, as will enable you within twelve months after your arrival to strike out, if you wish, and go into farming on your own account, and to do so with much greater chances of success than you had upon arrival in the country. Perhaps I may be speaking to some to-night who have not been used to earn their living by manual

labour, but who consider it necessary to emigrate and are not blessed with any too much cash; if so, I would say, take care of what you have, and do not be above working for others to gain experience.

"In the first place there is not in the colonies that same sense of degradation (false as false can be in spirit) attaching to manual labour which meets us so painfully in Britain. But even if there were, be prepared to prove the manliness of your nature, and make one noble resolve to break through the miserable conventionalities of an over-wrought civilisation, by engaging in that labour best calculated to fit you for your life-work. Thomas Carlyle has well said, 'all true work is sacred; in all true work, were it but true hand-labour, there is something of divineness; labour, wide as the earth, has its summit in Heaven.' Well, I was saying, you must find your work, and do it with your might, and at the end of six or twelve months you will have gained such experience as will enable you to tell what part of the country is best to take up land in, and what kind of land is best suited to your purpose.

"It may be useful to say a few words explanatory of the land laws of the country. Any male over 18 years of age, and any person the head of a family, is entitled to a free grant of 160 acres of splendid land, and the only charge in connection with this is an office fee of £2, when entry is made. The settler is required to live upon the land for six months in each year for three years in succession, and to bring under cultivation not less than five acres each year. In order to suit the convenience of settlers who may not be prepared for a year or two to live on the land, an alternative plan is allowed. Having entered at the Government office for your land, you will proceed to put up a small house (probably of wood), and a small stable. The cost of these will depend altogether upon the size and quality of your buildings. Many are built of logs cut by the settler in the woods; others, of lumber or sawn boards, which can be bought at reasonable rates in any of the towns throughout the country. If you have a slight knowledge of rough carpentering so much the better for you, for in many cases you will have to be architect, contractor, and labourer combined in regard to your own work and buildings.

"The next thing will be to buy a waggon, plough, and horses or oxen. The latter are much used for farm purposes in the newly-settled parts of the country, and, if you only exercise a little patience and kindness, will invariably do their work in a satisfactory way, either in the waggon, plough, or harrows; in fact, will do the work of horses. They are, moreover, much less liable to disease or sudden illness than horses, and are a much safer investment, to say nothing of being a much more profitable one, for when your oxen's working days and years are over—at the end of ten or fifteen summers—you can turn them loose on the rich prairie grass and fatten them for the butcher. A friend of mine tells me they make the very best of beef. With your house and stable built, and your outfit bought, you set to work to plough your land. You can commence ploughing about the middle of April, and go on to the end of June, by which time, if you have been industrious, and sticking close to work, you may have from 75 to 100 acres ploughed. It is nothing unusual for a team of two horses or oxen to plough $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres per day. I have

requently known them do 2 acres; whilst on stubble I have known one man and team do 3 acres per day. We usually plough wide and shallow.

"In July and the early part of August you put up your hay for the winter. You do not have to wait until you have made a meadow; you simply go forth to the prairie and cut the rich grasses Nature has so bountifully distributed.

"In selecting land, take care to choose a farm not merely on account of its wheat-growing capabilities, but with plenty of grass, bearing in mind that you cannot live by wheat alone. At least, it is not advisable to try to do so; you will make a much easier and much surer living by engaging in mixed farming—i.e., raising stock as well as growing grain.

"Any time after the middle of July you may commence to plough over again—or blackset, as we call it—the land you ploughed in the spring and early summer. When you first plough the land, or break it, it should be ploughed from 1½ inches to 2 inches deep, and 12 inches or 14 inches wide; when backsetting, you generally plough 4 inches deep, so that you turn back the first sod, and throw up other inches on the top of it. Your land is then ready for seeding the next spring. You will have some spare time in October, and should then begin to consider your plans for the winter.

"During the winter, if you have some stock, you will find plenty to do looking after them, and getting hay home for them, for we very seldom stack the hay at the stable, as in England. In order to save time in the summer, it is usually stacked where cut and taken home as required in the winter, when there is not so much work to do.

"Then you will have your grain to haul to market, and wood to haul home for fuel and fencing. If you are unmarried, there is another thing you will have to do on the long winter evenings, and it is very likely to take up a great deal of your time—and that is, to look out for a wife. You will be too busy in the summer to do this kind of thing. However, I shall have a word or two to say on this question later. Upon the whole, your winter will pass away pleasantly enough, and next spring you will have to be ready, immediately the snow disappears, to put in your crop. If you are astir tolerably early you can put in 75 or 80 acres without much or any outside assistance. Once in, you have nothing more to do with it until harvest time—about the middle of August. You will then get a self-binder (reaping machine), which will cut and bind your grain. You then stook it, and in a short time thrash it, and either put it in your granary or haul it to market.

"If the crop is moderately good, you will probably have 20 bushels an acre of wheat. I have known many raise 25 to 30, and have grown between 30 and 40 myself; but, on the other hand, on light land I have known men raise not more than 15 bushels, so that I make a moderate estimate, not caring to exaggerate, and say you will probably have 20 bushels an acre off your 75 acres, or 1,500 bushels of the very best wheat the world produces. Probably this will be worth 2s. or 2s. 6d. per bushel to you. If you have cattle and pigs, you, of course, have additional sources of income in these, whilst in your garden you can grow almost everything you require for the table in the shape of vegetables. Potatoes grow to a great

size, and frequently weigh from 2 lb. to 3 lb. each, whilst squash grows to 100 lbs. and 125 lbs. in weight.

"During those first two years of your life out West you will have had lots of hard work, but now you begin to reap the harvest of your labours, and can enjoy more leisure.

"During odd times you will find plenty to do improving your farm, putting up fences, additional buildings, and so on. Of course, many men who go out have not sufficient money to enable them, even after they have taken up land, to live permanently upon it. There are thousands of such. Usually they live on the farm in the winter and work for other farmers in the summer, and arrange with some neighbour to do the requisite amount of ploughing and seeding on their farm, returning the labour to him at some other time, and do this for two or three years, until well enough off to live altogether on their own place. Many who go out rent a farm for a year or two, and in this way secure a living, and are enabled at leisure to look round for a suitable locality to settle in. There are plenty of farms to rent upon advantageous terms. Many are let upon the share system—the owner providing the land ready for seeding operations and furnishing the seed, the tenant doing all the work and giving a proportion of the crop for rent. In this way a large cash outlay on the part of the tenant is avoided.

"Not a few go out to Manitoba with the intention of following the particular line of business they have been accustomed to at home. It is possible they may be able to do so, but it is also very possible they may find all these avenues full, and in that case must be prepared to do something else. Find out some honourable work, and pursue it with your might, and depend upon it God will prosper you.

"In a very brief and very general way I have tried to tell you what you may expect to do when you reach the Canadian North-West, but of course a general rule is not in every case applicable. Individual cases require special adaptation to the circumstances surrounding them, but usually the adaptation may be upon the general lines I have indicated.

"To the ordinary English mind there is one great drawback to settlement in Canada, and that is the climate. It is represented by interested and unscrupulous United States' agents, and often by ignorant but well-meaning people in England, as being too rigorous for any but Esquimaux and polar bears to exist. Nothing is further from the truth. After spending four winters in the country I can honestly say I prefer the winter of the Canadian North-West to the miserable cold, damp, fog, and slush of the English winter. Most British people who have lived long enough in the country to overcome feelings of home-sickness will tell you the same, whilst settlers from the eastern provinces of Canada almost invariably admit their preference for the climate over that of the part from which they come. It is my firm conviction the climate is one of the healthiest, if not absolutely the healthiest, in the world; and all admit it is specially suited for children. The winters are undeniably cold, but as the atmosphere is dry the cold is not felt nearly so much as in countries where the temperature is higher and the humidity greater.

"The winter lasts about four and a half or five months, from November to March. During the greater part of that time we have continuous frost; and rain and thaw are unknown, or nearly so. The thermometer frequently registers, especially in December and January, considerably below zero. Living in England, where 5° above zero is thought extremely cold, I am sure such figures must convey to you an idea of cold quite unbearable. Such an idea is false. But 20° and 30° below zero when there is scarcely a breath of wind, and the day is bright, clear, and full of sunshine, as is frequently the case, is simply glorious. I don't know of anything more enjoyable in the shape of wintry weather, whilst a sleigh ride or a walk under such conditions is invigorating and health-imparting in the highest degree. There are many days when the thermometer is above zero, and sometimes in the middle of the day it scarcely freezes at all. I have often seen men working out of doors without their coats on in winter, and, if you are in the woods, where men are working, you may see this every day. The cold is steady for four and a half months, and the season dry, with only a slight snowfall. We usually have a clear blue sky and bright sunshine.

"Knowing what weather to expect we prepare accordingly, and, as a result, are inconvenienced by the cold but little. The winter, too, is a great time for amusements. Sleigh riding, tobogganing, socials, and surprise parties are the order of the day. I don't know what you would think if 20 or 30 ladies and gentlemen walked up to, or rather drove up to, your house some night about six o'clock and said they had come to spend the evening with you. Such a thing often occurs in Canada, and very pleasant times are spent at these surprise parties. Dancing and all kinds of games are indulged in. If you happen to live in a settlement where the neighbours are sociable and fond of enjoyment, there will be something of the kind two or three times a week; and this is your golden opportunity, if unmarried, to look after a wife. Women are scarce in the country districts, and any who are worth having are very soon appropriated by some of the farmers. You will have to find out the best and perhaps the quickest way to win a woman's love, for competition is keen, and no slow coaches need apply. The summer is warm, some few days extremely hot. During the summer months we have very heavy thunderstorms, the lightning being specially vivid. In June, July, and August the mosquitoes are troublesome, especially to new comers. With the advance of settlement these troublesome insects, to a great extent, disappear. The summer is really very enjoyable, for no matter how hot the day there is almost invariably a cool breeze on the prairie, and the extremely hot days when there is no breeze, like the extremely cold days of winter, are but few. Upon the whole, the climate is decidedly enjoyable. The great North-West is a veritable happy hunting ground for the sportsman. There are numerous wild animals in the country. The buffalo is seldom met with, though occasionally a few are seen. They have been ruthlessly slaughtered by Indians and by white men, and are almost extinct. Bears are still to be met with in some parts of the country. There are a few wolves and foxes, and in the wooded neighbourhoods moose, elk, and various kinds of deer are to be met with. There is also an abundance of small game, wild turkeys, geese and ducks, prairie chickens, and plover; and other smaller birds are to be met with all over the country.

There is a close season for game, but the game laws are not all burdensome, and any man who has a gun may go out and shoot almost where he chooses without hindrance. It is nothing uncommon for two or three friends to start out in the morning and shoot one or two hundred chickens and ducks before night.

"The Government of Manitoba is of the most representative character, and is carried on through a Legislative Assembly of thirty-five members, elected by the people. There is a responsible ministry chosen from the Legislature. The Assembly meets in Winnipeg, and is dissolved not less than once in four years. Practically we have manhood suffrage. There is no property qualification necessary for a candidate for Parliamentary honours, and, as members are paid an annual sum from the Provincial Treasury, there is no valid reason why a good man, no matter what his position in life, should not rise to occupy the highest position. In addition to the Local Legislature, Manitoba also returns five members to the Dominion Parliament, which meets in Ottawa, and in many matters has jurisdiction over the whole of Canada.

"There is also an excellent system of local self-government. The cities are governed by a mayor and corporation, much as in England. The rural districts are divided into municipalities, each with its own popularly-elected council, and whose duty it is to look after purely local matters. I would suggest, might not some remedy for existing evils be found in the adoption of some such system as this in Great Britain?

"There is an admirable educational system in Manitoba and the North-West, modelled after the Ontario system, which is reputed the best in the world. One thirty-sixth of the whole land in the country is set apart for educational purposes, and education is free—i.e., there is no direct charge. There is a small charge upon the land. Even in the most remote districts very few of the settlers are more than three miles from a school, whilst in many parts they are much nearer.

"Schools are extending throughout the province with great rapidity, and settlers need have but little doubt as to their ability to secure the blessings of education for their children. I believe all teachers in these Government schools are certificated, and that the schools are from time to time inspected by duly qualified inspectors.

"My remarks to-night would be incomplete if I omitted to make reference to the railroad system of Canada. There are three great lines which in point of importance and length of mileage overshadow all others—these are the Inter-Colonial, the Grand Trunk, and the Canadian Pacific Railway. The first of these is controlled and operated by the Dominion Government. It is located principally in the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Quebec. The Grand Trunk is a most extensive system, and has branches all over the principal parts of Ontario and Quebec.

"The Canadian Pacific Railway is, in some respects, the most important of all. Much has been heard in England during recent years of this railway, and I sincerely hope much more may be heard of it in the future, for, if properly managed, it will be of immense benefit not only to Canada, but also, in the event of contingencies, to the whole British Empire. A few figures regarding it may be

interesting. The total length of the main line between Quebec, on the eastern shores of Canada, and Vancouver on the Pacific, the western terminus of the line, is a little over 3,000 miles. In addition to this there are various branch lines and other systems incorporated with it, making the total mileage of the Canadian Pacific system, in 1886, amount to 3,769 miles. The time occupied in building the road is said to have been four-and-a-half years, or at the rate of a little over two-and-a-half miles per day.

"In addition to the Canadian Pacific Railway, we have, in Manitoba and the North-West, the Manitoba and North-Western system, extending for a distance of 190 miles in a north-westerly direction from Portage-la-Prairie. It passes through a magnificent stretch of country, and one well adapted for mixed farming. Large numbers of settlers from the Old Country are living in the country through which this line passes. Then there is the Winnipeg and Hudson Bay Railway, of which, as a commencement, 40 miles were built last year. This road is proposed to run from Winnipeg, in a northerly direction, to some point on Hudson's Bay, there to connect with lines of steamers running to Great Britain direct. It is estimated that, when this line is built and operated, the distance between Winnipeg and Liverpool will be reduced by nearly 1,000 miles. Of the importance of such a road as this to the country one cannot speak too highly.

"There is also a railway known as the 'North-Western Coal and Navigation Company's Railway,' running from Dunmore—a point on the Canadian Pacific Railway some 650 miles west of Winnipeg in a south-westerly direction—to Lethbridge, a distance of 109 miles. At Lethbridge are some very valuable coal mines. When Canada was Confederated, in 1867, there were 2,258 miles in operation; in 1886, there were 10,715, an increase speaking much for the advancement of the whole country.

"Perhaps these details into which I have entered may not prove interesting to all, but I trust they may at any rate prove instructive to those who think of settling in Canada. I am conscious that in these days more interest is taken by England in her colonies than was the case years ago. Imperial federation is in the air, and if we would strengthen the bonds of unity between the mother land, of which we are all so proud, and the distant colonies, we must know more of each other. Out of that increased knowledge will grow increased regard, I might say love, which will, I trust, tend to the solidification and perpetuation of the noblest and most popular empire the world has ever seen. We come to England and ask her surplus population to come, and, still under the grand old flag, the Union Jack, help us to build up new Englands beyond the seas. We do so in no spirit of rivalry. We see here men and women trampling each other down in the competition for a living, see them standing about 350 to the square mile, while in Canada we have millions of acres of land, rich and productive, needing only the hand of man to till it and extract its latent wealth. In nearly all branches of trade in England to-day you find the labour market overstocked. Especially is this so in regard to the higher industries. We hear of men applying by the hundreds for a situation at a remuneration of £1 per week, of men and women toiling from early morn till late at night, toiling, well nigh incessantly, amidst

squalor, wretchedness, and impure air, that they may honestly earn a small pittance of 1s. or 1s. 6d. per day, and thus keep body and soul together. We hear also of large numbers who find it next to impossible to obtain even casual employment, such as will enable them to exist. We hear of 20,000 or 30,000 rising daily in London not knowing where their day's food is to come from. And these are not idle rumours. They are stern facts, the existence of which any of you may prove if you will. Col. Caldecott, three years since, said: 'In England we seem to have overgrown our country. Every profession and every trade seemed to be overcrowded, and competitors were so numerous that success was very uncertain in any particular walk of life.' Anxious mothers and fathers are seriously asking the question, 'What shall we do with our boys and girls?' Even the columns of the daily papers are devoted to discussions of the subject. The problem presses for solution, and year by year, as it remains unsolved, the tension is becoming greater, and the demand for its speedy settlement more and more irresistible. Answered the question must be soon, or the mass of pent-up misery, urged on by the pangs of hunger, will be like to expend itself in the throes of bloody revolution. To my mind the day is not far distant when in this country we must have State-aided emigration, carried on as a distinct department of Government, just as to-day we have a Department of Education and a Board of Trade. I do not advise indiscriminate emigration—far from it. If you are doing well, stay where you are, but if your present position is unsatisfactory, and your prospects for the future are not bright—or if you have a family and the outlook for their settlement at home is not cheering—then it becomes a serious question whether or not you may better your circumstances by going to some new land. We give you what information we can, and you must answer for yourself the question, shall I emigrate? If you decide to do so, then I have no hesitation in recommending Canada to you; for, from all I can learn regarding the other colonies and the United States, I believe the advantages offered by Canada, geographically, commercially, and politically, are superior to them all. It is a splendid field for the investment of capital, either in large or small quantities. The man who can invest £200 out there will accomplish more with it than he could hope to do with three times the amount at home. The man who has no capital, save honour, industry, and strength, may go out with the almost absolute certainty of success in the near future, whilst as to women the scope for the exercise of their genius is unlimited. Domestic servants are in great demand at high wages, for the very simple reason that they are no sooner in a situation than they get married. To each one who is thinking of seeking a home in some new land, I say, think of the matter seriously. If you think it right to go, hesitate not, pull yourself together, and, with resolute will and light heart, go forth determined to do your best, knowing that if you do that He who has cared for you thus far will care for and help you still."

Mr. JAMES, of Liverpool, the well-known Canadian traveller, illustrated the lecture with dissolving views, which much interested the audience. He gave many instructive and racy remarks as each picture was presented, and demonstrated to the audience the wonderful rapidity of growth of Western cities. He was heartily cheered from time to time.

Lord LEIGH moved a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer, Mr. Anthony, J. McMillan, and to Mr. Jaques for the illustrations. He said he had listened to many lectures during the past 30 years, but without any flattering he could say he had never listened to a more interesting one than that just delivered by Mr. McMillan. It was practical, and just what was needed by those who meditated emigration. The views given by Mr. Jaques were very interesting and instructive.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. HENRY STREET, and carried unanimously.

Mr. McMILLAN and Mr. JAQUES responded, the latter gentleman moving a hearty vote of thanks to Lord Leigh for presiding.

His LORDSHIP responded, and said he was very pleased to be present. He said all were much indebted to Dr. Wynter, who had kindly arranged this meeting, simply because he believed the working men and others of the district desired to hear more about Canada.

Three hearty cheers were given for Lord Leigh.

Mr. JAQUES said that the English were not so loyal as the Canadians; they never concluded a meeting without singing the National Anthem, and he proposed they should do so. This was done and brought the meeting to a close.

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the above lecture was delivered last winter, I have again been living in Canada. At the request of many friends, on both sides the Atlantic, I have returned to Great Britain this winter to tell what I know about Canada to those who wish to hear it. I may say we have this year had magnificent crops in Manitoba, and farmers are jubilant, as well they may be. For those who have capital to invest, there is at the present time a splendid field in Canada, especially in Manitoba and the North-West. For tenant farmers, who in England are struggling with adversity, I know of no better field than Manitoba. There are many inquiries for agricultural labourers and domestic servants for next spring.

Information of a reliable nature regarding Canada may be obtained at the Offices of the High Commissioner for Canada, 9, Victoria Chambers, Westminster, London, S.W. Upon arrival in Canada every assistance will be given the intending settler by the Government officials stationed in the various cities and towns. So far as Manitoba is concerned, I would advise all who, upon arrival, require advice or assistance of any kind to call in at the offices of the "Dominion Government Intelligence Department," or the "Manitoba Government Intelligence Department," both of which are situated on the Canadian Pacific Railway platform at Winnipeg. The officials of these offices will, without any charge, render all possible assistance.

ANTHONY J. McMILLAN.

KENILWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE

December 23rd, 1887.